KEIZOKU-SCANS
...and the manga goes on
DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES SHARE OUTSIDE OF IRC!

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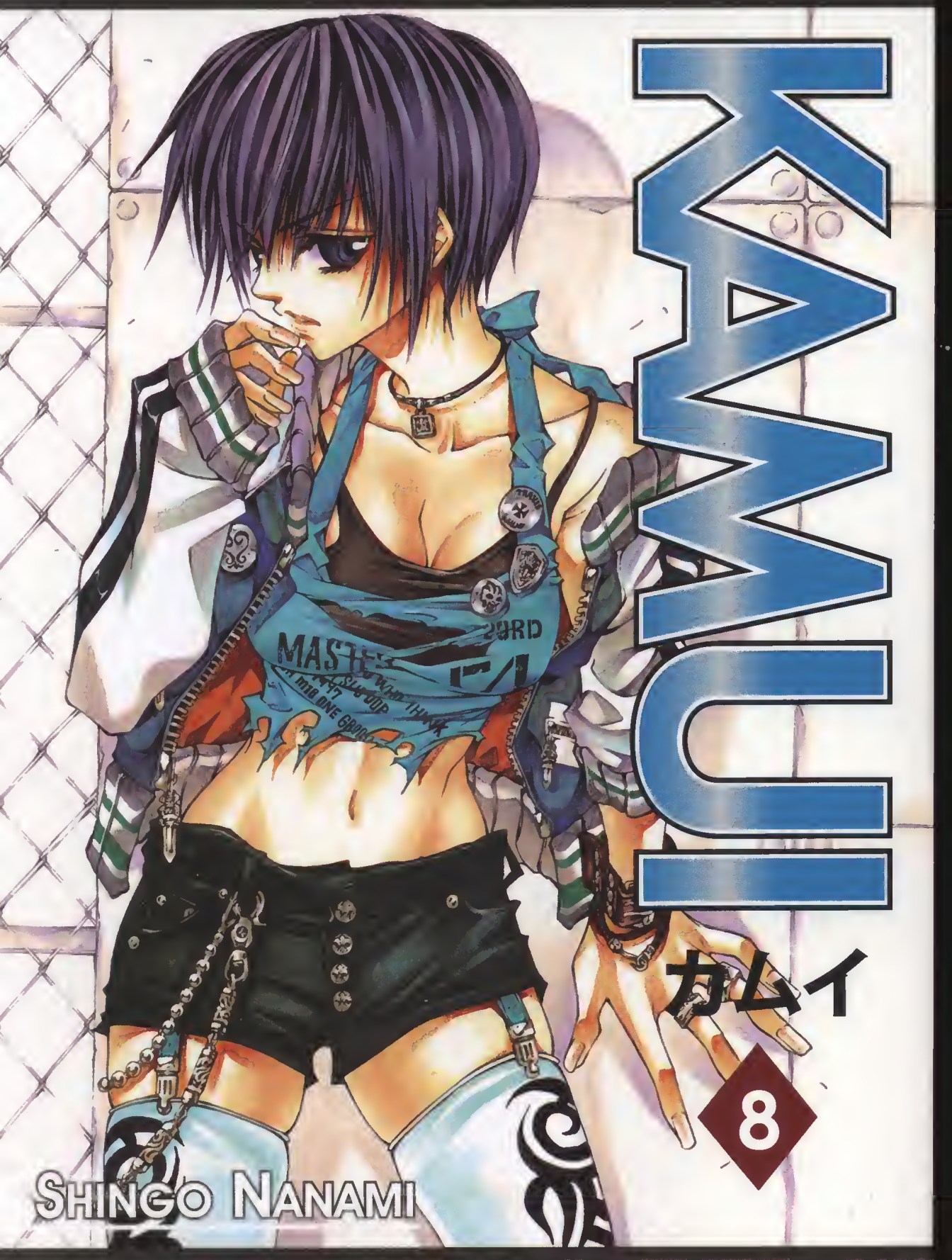

KAMUI

カムイ

8

SHINGO NANAMI

THE NOA TRIUMVIRATE

KAMUI[8]

SHINGO NANAMI

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KAMUI

カムイ

8

七海慎吾

Shingo Nanami

KAMUI

BY SHINGO NANAMI

8

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KAMUI

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CHARACTERS

SHUI
Childhood friend of Aika and former second lieutenant at NOA. An adept cook who likes to take care of others. His voice holds a strange attraction for both Atsuma and Sumire. He is infused with the power of fire.

AIKA
Former first lieutenant at NOA and Sumire's right-hand woman. She is completely devoted to Sumire and only wishes to be by her side.

SHIKI
The former top general of NOA. Despite assuming an air of royalty, he is unemotional. With NOA gone and no way to keep Sumire bound to him, he has re-sworn his allegiance to Utsuho.

CHARACTERS

ATSUMA
A young man who is sent by his village in the north to retrieve the stolen sacred spirit, Okikurumi. Betrayed by his brother Utsuho, he trusts no one and keeps himself distanced from others. He has the ability to absorb the powers of the kamui.

KOJOMARU
The kamui of an ancient sword from Atsuma's village. Despite his ability and age, he is both short-tempered and immature. Utsuho pulled Kojomaru out of Atsuma, but Kojomaru has made a contract to use Sumire's body instead.

UTSUHO
Brother of Atsuma who betrayed him and took Okikurumi from his village. He is the architect of a grand plot that will cleanse the world through destruction.

SUMIRE
The former Tensho, NOA's second-in-command. She has made a contract with Kojomaru giving him control of her body. She is infused with the power of the wind.

TERMINOLOGY

Atanan - Monsters that suddenly appeared after the Grand Sinkar.

Earth and Sky Division - The Earth Division is led by Chisho (Commander) Hyde, and the Sky Division is led by Tansho (Commander) Sumire. The Sky Division and the Earth Division are the two forces that form NOA's military strength. Although their names are Earth and Sky, this has no relation to their jurisdiction.

EDEN - A part of the former city of Tokyo that was protected from the earthquakes by the government research facility's barrier. It is now controlled by NOA.

Ekashi – A term meaning "aldere."

Grand Sinkar - The second of two great earthquakes that have left Japan devastated. The southernmost islands of Kyushu and Shikoku are both completely submerged, and a good percentage of the main island Honshu is left underwater.

KAMUI - A term used to refer to the spirits.

i'touren - A term referring to the spirit embodied by members of NOA. For example, Lady Sumire embodies the wind i'touren.

Magatsu-hei - Japanese, it literally translates to "misfortune soldier."

NOA - Stands for Noble Offensive Academy. It is a society of young men and women who have been infused with kamui in order to fight the atanan. It is backed by a government research facility that has been performing paranormal experiments on humans.

Okikurumi - An ancient spirit and the most sacred kamui that is stolen from Atsuma's village. Its disappearance has a key role in the recent natural disasters and appearance of the atanan.

Tohau - A term used to refer to the powers used by members of NOA.

IT'S ALMOST TIME,
OKIKURUMI.
BUT NOW,
THE BASE-KAMUI WILL SOON AWAKEN.
STEP
..THAT IT'S HARD TO SEE WHERE THE KAMUI END AND HE BEGINS
BUT IN FACT, HE WAS BORN SO CLOSE TO NATURE...
THE VILLAGE ELDERS SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE TOHSU, AND HE BELIEVED THEM
WAS THE BALANCE UPSET WHEN I DEFEATED HIM, OR ..
HE HAD EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO AWAKEN TO THIS POWER.
STEP
STEP
THEN HE WOULD NEVER HAVE REALIZED HOW DANGEROUS HE IS.
EITHER WAY, HE SHOULD HAVE RETREATED.

Chapter 33 *conflicting paths*

YOU TOLD ME...
...THAT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ME CRY.
DASH
HEY!
I TOLD YOU TO STAY BACK!
GRAB
THUD
SLIDE
BUT...
I DON'T KNOW WHY.
I...
...CAN'T...
...I CAN'T STAY BACK.

BE GONE!
BOOM
SUMIRE!?

DAMMIT!
ROAR
BANG

!
SUMIRE?
STEP

...HIM TOO.
HE IS...
...ONE LADY SUMIRE NEEDS.
THEN,
YOU'RE USELESS NOW.
I SEE.

AIKA!
KI-CHICK
YOU TAKE HER SIDE...
..EVEN AFTER I LET YOU ESCAPE.
I PROTECT LADY SUMIRE.
AND..
HMPH.

!!
BOOM
UGH!
LADY SUMIRE!
SLASH
S...
RING
STOP...
...IT!!
RING
...ARED.

...USELESS RESISTANCE!
BOOM
CRACK
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM

DON'T...
...WASTE MY TIME...
TWITCH
...WITH YOUR...

KOJOMARU!
ATSUMA!
DON'T USE THAT POWER!
!?

I'M...
...MARU.
I'M...
NO!
...SCARED.
COUGH
LADY SUMIRE?

I DON'T KNOW!
ARE YOU...
...THAT YOU'RE ABSORBING KAMUI INTO YOURSELF.
BUT FOR NOW,
WE HAVE TO DEFEAT THAT GUY.
THAT'S ALL I KNOW.
STEP
...YOUR HELP.
I DON'T NEED...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST...
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?

THAT POWER IS...
WHY ARE YOU STOPPING ME!?
POWER?
YOU CAN'T!
DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT...
KOJOMARU,
STEP
NOTHING EXCEPT...
...THIS POWER?
ROAR

DASH
!
HEY!
LEAP
WAIT, KOJOMARU!
KOJOMARU!

!
!?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?
WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO SACRIFICE YOUR LIFE FOR ANYONE?
KICK

...MY POWERS ARE STRONGER!
YANK
BOOM
BOOM
..THE CONTAINER IS STILL WEAK
BUT...
GRIT
LOOK OUT!
CRACK

BOOM
ARE YOU SURE...
YOU CAN'T DEFEAT ME WITH YOUR POWERS!
KAMUI OF THE SWORD!
ROAR
SLIDE
I WASN'T USED TO THIS BODY BEFORE.
BUT NOW..
...ABOUT THAT?

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN BY HELPING ME?
I'M NOT LIKE YOU.
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS...
...AFTER-WARDS!
HEY!
PUNCH
DUCK
DO YOU...
..REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID?
!?
DASH

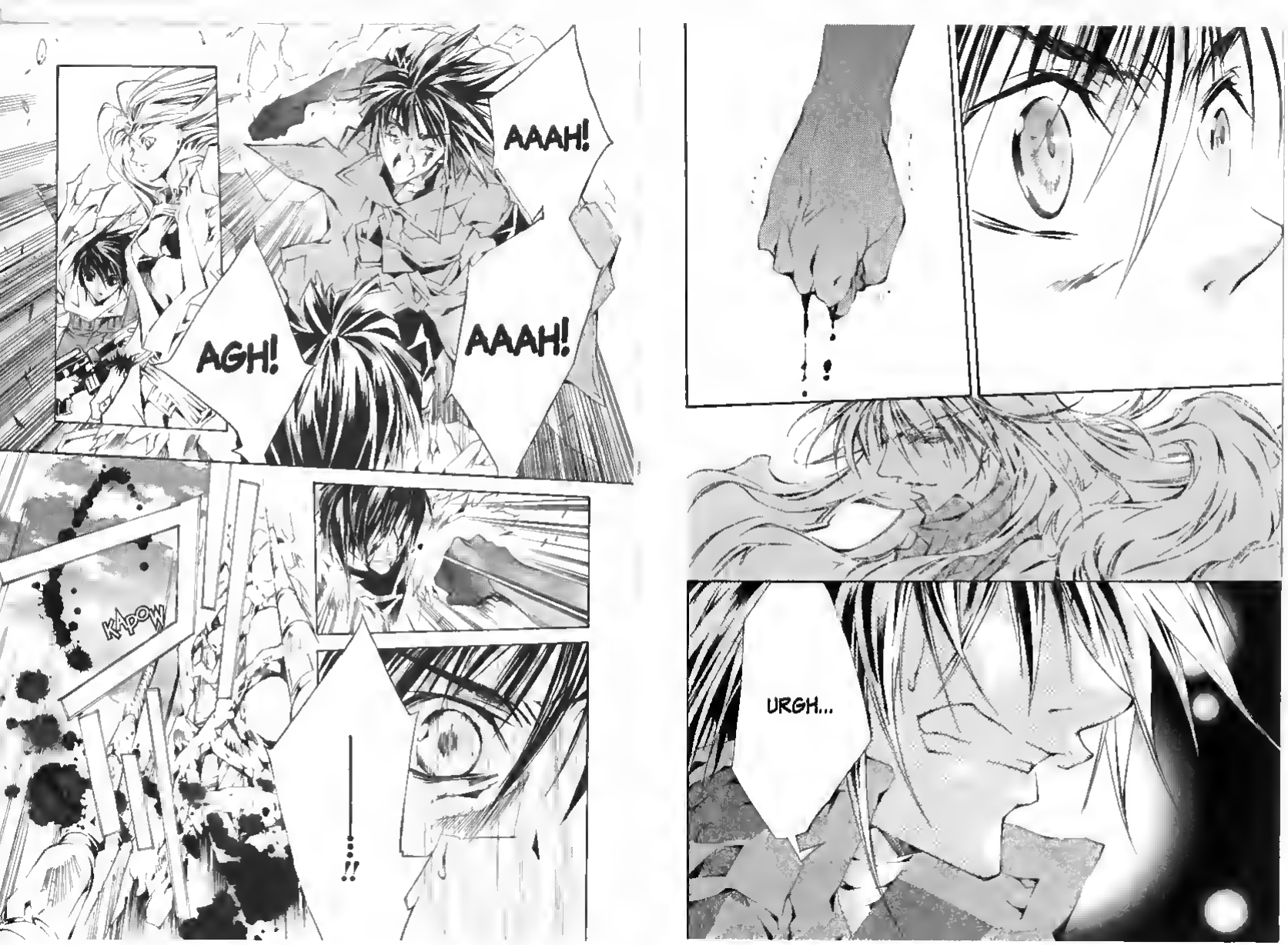
WHAM

THIS BATTLE IS MEANING-LESS.
THUD
YOU WON'T GET WHAT YOU WANT BY DOING THIS
YOU KNOW THAT!
THEN...
THUD
SHUT...
...UP!
THAT YOU COULD ESCAPE FROM UTSUHO!?
!
JUST LIKE...
KA-CLICK
...ME!?
DING
DING
DING

...THAT YOU WERE GOING TO STOP UTSUHO
YOU TOLD ME.
WHEN NOA CRUMBLED,
SLAM
...TO THAT PROMISE!?
WHAT HAPPENED..
IF YOU'RE MERELY A PUPPET, WHY DID YOU SAY THAT?
THUMP
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
WASN'T IT BECAUSE...
...YOU WERE SECRETLY HOPING...

EVEN YOU CAN'T...
SEE?
...ANSWER THAT.

NOA CAN'T DEFEAT OKIKURUMI!
NO!
...WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST I DO!?
KILL THAT MAN!?
HE TRAPPED ME!
HE TOLD ME BECAUSE HE KNOWS I CAN'T STOP HIM,
HE ALREADY TOLD ME EVERYTHING
WHAT OTHER OPTION DO I HAVE!?
Huff
FLINCH


AAAH!
AGH!
AAAH!
KAPOW
!!
URGH...

STEP
GRIP
NO OTHER WAY?
STEP
SO,
TAP
CAN I KILL YOU?
...IT WOULD STILL BE IN CONFLICT WITH YOURS,
AS LONG AS YOU STAY BY SUMIRE'S SIDE.
IS THERE...
HMPH
I'VE BEEN DYING...

EVEN IF...
...THERE WAS ANOTHER PATH...

WAIT!
DON'T KILL HIM!
SLASH
WHAT!?

...SINCE THE DAY I MET HER.
SHINK
THE POWER..
...TO ABSORB KAMUI.
!

I CAN DO IT.
GRIMM
DESPITE ITS SIZE,
THIS BODY CAN ABSORB KAMUI.
OKIKURUMI IS A KAMUI TOO.
STEP

NOA CAN'T DESTROY OKIKURUMI.
BUT...
...MAYBE I CAN!
ATSUMA!?
IF I CAN ABSORB IT ALL,
UTSUHO'S PLANS WILL BE FINISHED.
EVEN IF I KILL HIM OR WAIT HIM OUT,
KILLING UTSUHO WON'T DO ANYTHING.
MY HEART WILL NEVER BE FREE

Chapter
34
fangs that bite

EVEN IF OKIKURUMI DOESN'T AWAKEN,
THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO END THIS.
EVEN WHEN I'M FAR AWAY, I'M HAUNTED BY HIS PRESENCE.
IF I CAN...
...KILL OKIKURUMI.
CLENCH

ATSUMA!
THERE'S NO ONE LEFT FOR IT TO GUARD.
I'M THE LAST OF MY CLAN, AND HAVE NO TOHSU.
MY ENTIRE CLAN'S HOPE RESTED ON UTSUHO.
EVEN IF ALL OF THIS HADN'T HAPPENED, THERE WOULD BE NO ONE LEFT.
BUT HE BETRAYED EVERYONE AND STOLE THE GOD FROM THE VILLAGE.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!?
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT...
...YOU'RE GOING TO KILL THE GUARDIAN SPIRIT OF YOUR VILLAGE!?
...WAS THE ONLY REASON WE EXISTED.
TO PROTECT OKIKURUMI AND MAINTAIN THE BALANCE OF THE WORLD..

KILL...
WHIRR
...OKIKURUMI !?

THEN I'M NOT AFRAID...
...TO KILL OKIKURUMI.
EVEN SO,
I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO COMMIT SUCH A SIN!
I TOLD YOU, I WILL KILL UTSUHO!
NO.
OKIKURUMI IS THE FOUNDATION OF EVERY-THING.
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN KILL IT!?
OKIKURUMI IS THE GUARDIAN OF THE CLAN.
THE CLAN MUST PROTECT OKIKURUMI.
IF THIS NEVER MEANT ANYTHING...

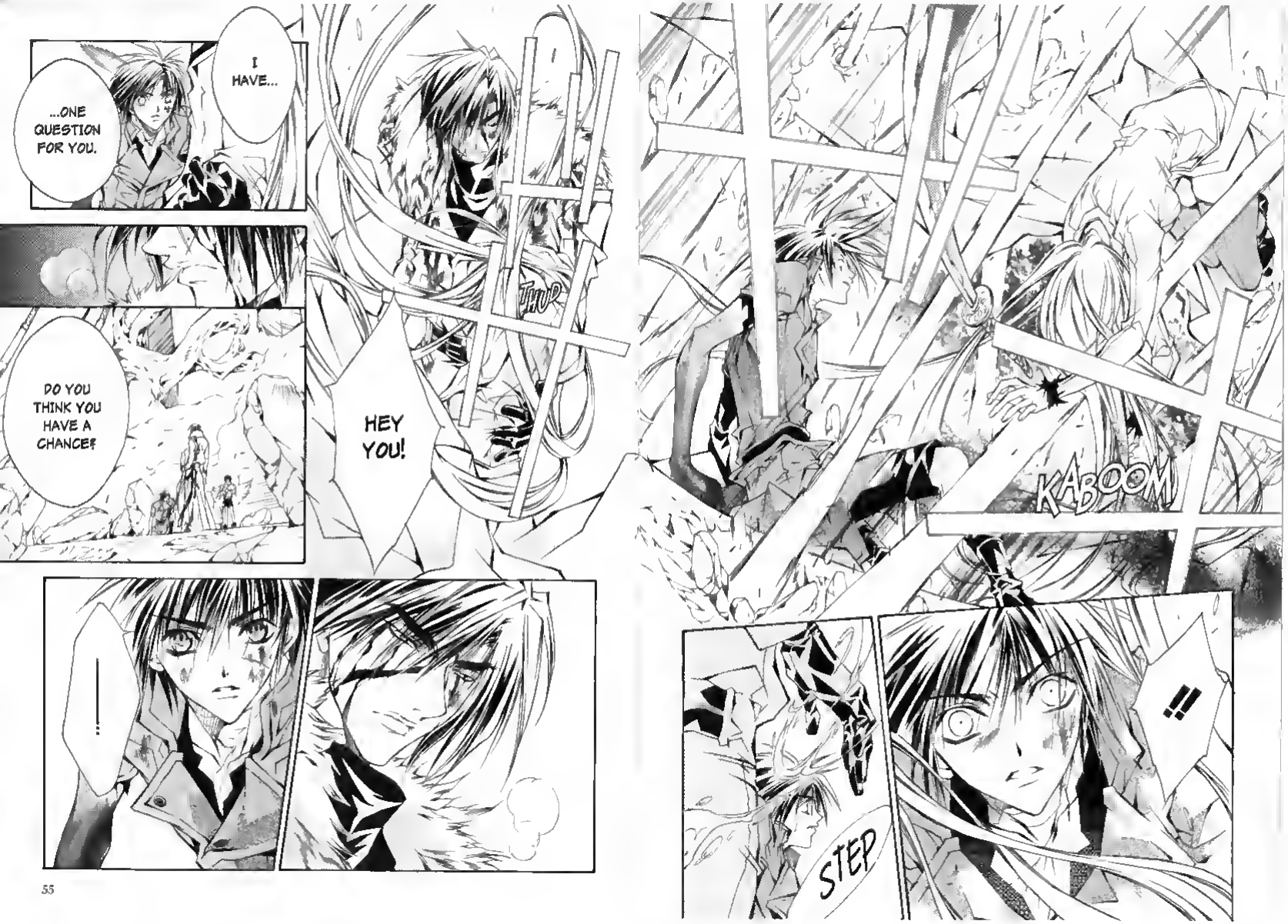
AND IS LEADING THE WORLD TO DESTRUCTION.
BUT OKIKURUMI ROOTED ITSELF IN EDEN.
WAS OUR CLAN...
WHAT PURPOSE WAS THERE IN PROTECTING OKIKURUMI?
IF THIS IS THE REALITY WE CREATED,
...TO OKIKURUMI TO BEGIN WITH?
...REALLY SO IMPORTANT...

...LET YOU!
GRIND
I WON'T...
I WON'T LET YOU GO!
I WON'T LET ANYONE...
WHIRR
!?
...TOUCH OKIKURUMI!
SWING

STEP
I WON'T LET YOU...
...DO THAT WITH SUMIRE'S BODY.
SPARK
IT'S NOT A MATTER OF WHETHER I CAN DO IT OR NOT.
I HAVE ALREADY LOST TO UTSUHO.
IT'S A CHOICE BETWEEN HOLDING ONTO OUR LAST HOPE,
OR GIVING UP BECAUSE WE'RE TOO AFRAID TO TRY.
STEP
THAT'S ALL.

...LISTEN...
CLACK
...YOU...
WHY WON'T...
...TO MEEEE !!
Whoosh

THIS BODY WON'T MOVE.
IT CAN'T BE!
...TSUMA.
SPARK
SPARK
SPARK
ATSUMA.
HURRY!
WHILE I HOLD OFF KOJOMARU.
NO!
DON'T GO, ATSUMA!
!
SUMIRE!
I HAVE TO GO.
!!!!!


I HAVE...
...ONE QUESTION FOR YOU.
DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE A CHANCE?
THUD
HEY YOU!
KABOOM
!!
STEP

I STILL HAVE THE FANGS TO BITE BACK.
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?
...LET ANYONE CONTROL MY FATE.
I'M NOT GOING TO...
DASH

I DO.
TOSS
WHAT'S THIS?
THE MASTER KEY...
...TO ALL THE DOORS OF THE BUILDING.

...THAT MAN'S PUPPET IS DEAD.
THEN I CAN'T DIE WITHOUT A GRAVE TO LIE IN.
IF I AM JUST A CORPSE,
THIS LAB WAS MINE
SO...
...IT'S TIME I TOOK IT BACK FROM HIM.
CRUMBLE

THE SOLITARY KING.
...A MERE PEASANT?
Hmf
HELPING OUT...

I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM OR NOA.
BUT...
THUMP

I DON'T REMEMBER HELPING ANYONE.
TUG

ATSUMA WASN'T AFRAID...
... TO PROTECT ME AND ANZU.
HE WANTS TO SAVE NOA, RIGHT?
THEN HE SHOULD THINK ONLY ABOUT ANZU.
I'LL JUST BE A BURDEN TO HIM.
BESIDES...
...I CAN PROTECT MYSELF.

TUG
I WILL...
THAT'S WHAT..
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING.
ATSUMA DIDN'T WANT.
YOU SAW IT TOO, SHIKI.
...KILL UTSUHO.

AIKA.
STEP
Hmf
IT'S JUST AS I TOLD YOU.
YOU DON'T NEED TO PROTECT ME ANYMORE
I...
...FEEL I HAVE BEEN RUNNING FROM SOMETHING.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE...
...WHO KNOWS MY TRUE SELF.
GRAB
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE...
LIFT
...WHO CAN MAKE ME THIS PATHETIC.
YOU FOOLISH WOMAN.

...LOOKED LIKE SHE HAD LOST EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD.
THE GIRL...
BUT SHE WAS CLINGING TO THE LITTLE BIT SHE HAD LEFT...
...AND WOULDN'T MOVE FROM THAT SPOT.
IT WAS IN THE EARLY YEARS OF NOA RULE.
THE CITY AND NOA WERE STILL IN CHAOS.
SHE STAYED UNTIL IT GOT DARK.
THE ONLY REASON I EXTENDED MY HAND TO HER...
WHY DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?
...WAS BECAUSE I FELT LIKE I HAD FOUND SOMEONE LIKE ME.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO HELP HER.
I WAS GOING TO LEAVE RIGHT AWAY

TELL ME.
WHAT HAVE I BEEN RUNNING FROM?
BUT...
...THERE IS SOMETHING I NEED TO KNOW.
IT'S TRUE THAT I WANT TO PROTECT YOU.
IF YOU DON'T NEED ME,
THEN..
...AT LEAST TELL ME THAT.
IT WAS...
...IN EDEN BACK THEN.
...A COMMON SIGHT...

I'M A BIT ENVIOUS OF YOU.
LADY SUMIRE.
YOU WEREN'T LIKE ME AFTER ALL.
IS THERE ANYTHING...
...I CAN DO?
WHAT IF YOU RUN AWAY AGAIN AFTER HEARING THE TRUTH?
NO.
EVEN IF I KNEW THE ANSWER,
I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU NOW.
!?
THINK ABOUT IT.
YOU HAVE NEVER RUN AWAY.
THE PERSON I KNOW,
STANDS STRONG ON HER TWO FEET, JUST AS YOU STAND NOW.
I CAN'T...
...DO THAT ANYMORE.

BEEEP
YES, MA'AM.
HUFF
BEEEP
IT'S NO USE!
HUFF
HE GOT PAST THE EMERGENCY GATE!
HUFF

PROTECT HIM...
...FOR ME.

...RELATED TO WHAT HE SAID?
IS THIS...
THAT POWER!
DAMMIT!
I CAN'T...
OVER HERE!
CLICK
THERE HE IS!
BANG
...SEE ANYTHING.
WOBBLE

THIS PLACE IS LIKE A MAZE.
HUFF
AND IN MY CURRENT STATE...
HUFF
YES SIR!
LORD SHIKI HASN'T RETURNED YET.
HURRY AND CATCH HIM!
!?
WHICH WAY SHOULD I GO?
...I CAN'T FEEL OKIKURUMI'S WAVE.
HUFF
I GOT DIZZY ALL OF A SUDDEN
WHAT WAS THAT?
YOU CAN'T USE IT!
THUD
CRASH

THE GUARDS...
AND I DON'T HAVE MANY...
...BODYGUARDS TO PROTECT ME.
...ARE BUSY EXTERMINATING THE PEST LET IN BY THE KIND KING.
HE FELL!
HURRY AND CATCH HIM!
STEP
STEP
TRUNDLE
CRASH!

IS THIS WHAT YOU CONSIDER "YOUR WAY," SHIKI?
ALL THAT TIME YOU WORKED FOR ME...
...YOU WEREN'T PLANNING TO BETRAY ME, WERE YOU?
BECAUSE IT'S NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL.
YOU DISAPPOINT ME.
I REGARDED YOU SO HIGHLY.
AND LOOK...
...YOU EVEN BROUGHT ALONG THAT THING.

WE'RE ALWAYS SHORT ON STAFF.
STEP
THUD
Hmph
YOU GIVE ME SO MUCH TROUBLE.

!!
THUD
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
I'LL PLAY WITH YOU LATER
THAT'S FINE
YOU ARE MY RIGHT HAND.
UGH!
RUMBLE
WHAT ARE YOU...
SUMIRE

I'M THE ONE..
..WHO'S DISAPPOINTED.
AT MYSELF.
ROAR
BOOM
FOR PUTTING UP WITH YOU SO LONG!

TO MAKE YOU...
...MINE.
UNGH.
...DOING HERE?
SHINK
JUST FOR ONE THING.
STEP

RATTLE
WHERE AM I?

SIGH
WHERE AM I?

MY WOUNDS...
...HAVE BEEN TREATED.
!?
THROB
UGH!

YOU'RE...
!?
Heheh
MY, WHAT BIG EYES YOU HAVE...
...KITTY-CAT.

YOU'RE...
!?

ROCKERS
Chapter
35 reunion

I WON'T LEAVE YOU BEHIND.
I SAID DON'T WORRY.
I GOTTA GO FOR A WHILE.
BUT REMEMBER.
WHAT'S WRONG?
HAVE MY DASHING GOOD LOOKS...
..RENDERED YOU SPEECH-LESS?

I WAS WAITING FOR YOU.
AND WHERE ARE WE?
SO I COULD STOP YOU...
...FROM GOING ANY FURTHER.

STEP
ANYONE WOULD STARE.
...AT THAT STUPID GETUP.
How mean.
OH YEAH?
STEP
STEP
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME?
IF YOU'RE WELL ENOUGH TO MAKE JOKES,
WHY DIDN'T YOU COME SOONER?
DON'T BE STUPID.

TELL ME WHY!
I DON'T HAVE TIME..
TO JOKE AROUND!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID...
NOT TO WORRY.
SAY SOMETHING.
OR ELSE..
...I WILL KEEP GOING,
EVEN IF I HAVE TO DEFEAT YOU!
I TOOK THE CARD KEY THAT YOU HAD.
WITHOUT THIS...
...YOU CAN'T EVEN GET OUT OF THIS ROOM
LIFT
I WON'T...
WHY?
...LEAVE YOU BEHIND
SO DON'T WORRY.
!

I DON'T WANT YOU TO...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...USE THAT POWER...
!?
I KNOW..
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT!?
...YOU DIE!
...THAT YOU HAVE THE POWER TO ABSORB KAMUI.
AND THAT YOU CAME TO SAVE NOA FROM OKIKURUMI WITH THAT POWER.
AND...

SLAM!
GRAB
TWIST
!!
WHAT?
I DON'T WANT TO WATCH...

THE POWER THAT I FINALLY FOUND...
GRIP
AND IT WILL KILL YOU.
...WILL KILL ME?
YOU KNOW,
I THOUGHT I COULD FIND A WAY TO RELEASE NOA, SO I LOOKED AROUND.
WHEN I ESCAPED FROM OKIKURUMI, I WAS ABLE TO MOVE
HE TOLD ME TO CHOOSE.
HE TOLD ME ABOUT YOU
BUT I WAS CAPTURED.
LIKE I EVEN HAD...
OR TO WORK FOR THE LAB TO STOP YOU.
TO USE YOUR POWER TO SAVE NOA,
YOU WILL PROBABLY DIE.
...THAT IF YOU CONTINUE TO USE THAT POWER,
YOU'RE REJECTING IT.
THE KAMUI YOU SWALLOW STAY IN YOUR BODY AS A FOREIGN SUBSTANCE
DIDN'T YOU THINK THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG WHEN YOUR ARM TURNED BLACK?

WELL...
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO DIE...
PUSH
..AND I DIDN'T WANT TO BE YOUR ENEMY, EITHER..
SO I...
...I SAID I WOULDN'T CHOOSE.
AND HE PUNISHED ME.
Wheeze
DON'T LOOK...
...AT ME LIKE THAT.
With these big eyes
THIS IS NO TIME TO JOKE AROUND!
WHO DID THIS TO YOU!?

SLASH
...A CHOICE.
!?
Crack
THUD
...TO YOU!?
WHAT HAPPENED...

IT'S BETTER THAN DOING NOTHING FOR YOU.
I WANT YOU TO LIVE.
I'LL GET ANZU-CHAN OUT SOMEHOW, SO YOU JUST WAIT HERE.
.....!
ARE YOU STUPID!?
GRAB

BUT OKIKURUMI LEFT ME NUMB.
MY MEMORY WAS FINE,
I DIDN'T THINK I COULD WIN..
shiver
DID...
..BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO LISTEN TO HIM EITHER
I couldn't get a hit in though
WHY DID YOU...
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM!
ATSUMA?
WHY DID YOU GET INVOLVED WHEN YOU COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED!?
...UTSUHO DO THIS...
...TO YOU!?

HEY!
...IS DISAP-PEARING!
ARE YOU DRAWING OKIKURUMI OUT OF MY BODY!?
UGH!
WHAT IS THIS? THE NUMB-NESS...
MY BODY IS HOT!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING!?
STARK
DON'T USE YOUR POWER TO HEAL ME!
I TOLD YOU THAT POWER WILL KILL YOU!
GRAB
SLAP

.....!
WHIRR
WOOSH!
ATSUMA !?

IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS ALIVE BEFORE.
WHO DO YOU THINK CHANGED ME?
ATSUMA.
COUGH COUGH
DON'T TOUCH ME!
AND YOU GAVE ME LIFE.
ATSUMA.
SUMIRE,
ANZU,
IF YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME...
...THEN...
I'D RATHER GIVE IT ALL TO YOU.
IF THIS IS MY LIFE NOW,

I'LL CHOOSE WHAT TO DO WITH MY OWN LIFE!
DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO!
NEITHER YOU NOR UTSUHO CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
...WHAT I WANT TO DO!
COUGH!
IF I DON'T DO ANYTHING, THE WORLD IS GOING TO END!
I WILL DO...
SO IT MIGHT KILL ME?
WHO CARES!?

I'M SORRY.
ALRIGHT.
Heh
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I UNDER-STAND.
slap
TURN
BONK
...IS THAT YOU LOVE ME.
Ouch!
SO WHAT YOU'RE REALLY SAYING..

...DON'T GET YOURSELF HURT LIKE THAT.
WHAT!?
pat
pat
!!!

I'LL FOLLOW YOU TO THE END OF THE WORLD.
AND PROTECT YOU LIKE A PROPER GUARD-DOG.

STOP FOOLING AROUND.
CLEAN UP YOUR WOUNDS AND GET THIS DOOR OPEN.
Ow.
AND AS FOR THIS POWER,
I DON'T WANT TO BE TRAPPED HERE FOREVER.
...I CAN'T COMPLETELY CONTROL IT YET.
FLUTTER
FINE.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DECIDE TO DO,
BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO DIE..
THUMP

DID YOU FIND THE INTRUDER?
NO,
BUT WITH THAT WOUND..
..HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR.
LET'S SEND GUARDS TO THE LOWER FLOORS JUST IN CASE.
CLICK
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
ARCH!
SHUT UP.
YOU JUST MAKE IT SOUND LIKE A JOKE.
WILL THAT MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER,
KITTY CAT?
Heh,
THEN I'LL REPHRASE
WELCOME HOME,
ATSUMA.

I PROMISE!
I SEE.
AIKA IS HEADED TOWARDS THE LAB TOO!
WELL, WE HAVE TO GO TO THE BASEMENT TO FREE NOA.
THUMP
UTSUHO IS AT THE TOP OF THIS TOWER, RIGHT?
SO I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE
If I'm not around you'd get lost
pshhht
LEAP
PROBABLY WITH SUMIRE AND THAT GUY.
SHE HAS A STRONGER WILL THAN I DO.
SHE'LL BE ALRIGHT.
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?

HUFF
WE FOUND AN INTRUDER!
GET TO THE OTHER HALL!
WHAT WAS THAT!?
HEY, OVER THERE!
PLEASE PROTECT HIM.
HUFF
PROTECT HIM.

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING YET.
BUT I...
...DON'T KNOW HIS TRUE INTENTIONS YET.
SHIKI TOLD ME THAT UTSUHO'S WISH IS TO "PURIFY" THE WORLD.
LAST TIME I RETREATED BEFORE LEARNING ANYTHING BUT I WON'T DO THAT AGAIN.
...AND INVOLVING NOA.
WHY HE'S DOING ALL OF THIS...

DON'T MAKE ME REPEAT MYSELF.
...IF IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IN DANGER.
BUT I'M WARNING YOU...
...THAT YOU'RE ALRIGHT.
I WANT TO MAKE SURE...
STEP
STEP
STEP
I WON'T DIE.

I HEAR YA.
SLIDE
JUST DON'T BREAK THAT PROMISE.
RUMBLE
...NOA.
ROAR
TO FREE...

WHAT I SAID AT NOA HASN'T CHANGED.
STEP
JUST WOUND HIM.
AND KEEP HIS WAVE AWAY
JUST UNTIL MY WISH COMES TRUE.
I STILL WANT...
...TO KNOW TRUE FREEDOM.
ALRIGHT.
I WON'T BE DEFEATED THAT EASILY.

I WILL FREE NOA...
...FROM OKIKURUMI.
RUMBLE
EVEN IF THIS POWER LEADS TO MY DEATH,
ROAR
I HAVE TO KEEP GOING.
CREAK
FLASH
WITH MY OWN HANDS.
AND FIND THE TRUTH!
ROAR

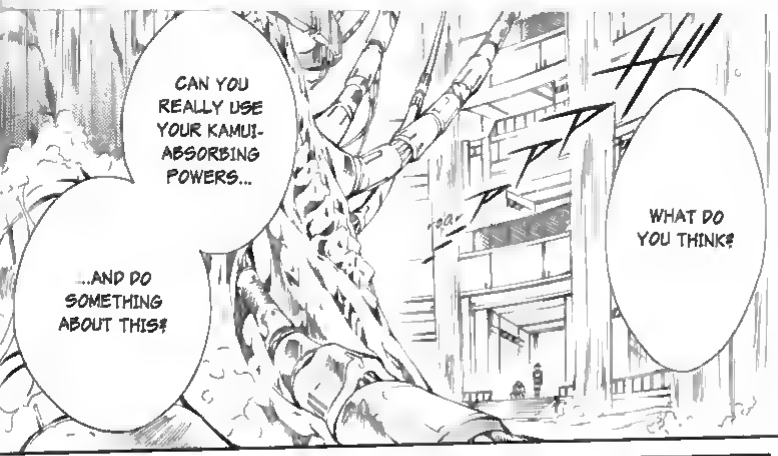
WITH MY OWN HANDS.

Chapter
36 awakening

I WILL....
...FIND THE TRUTH!

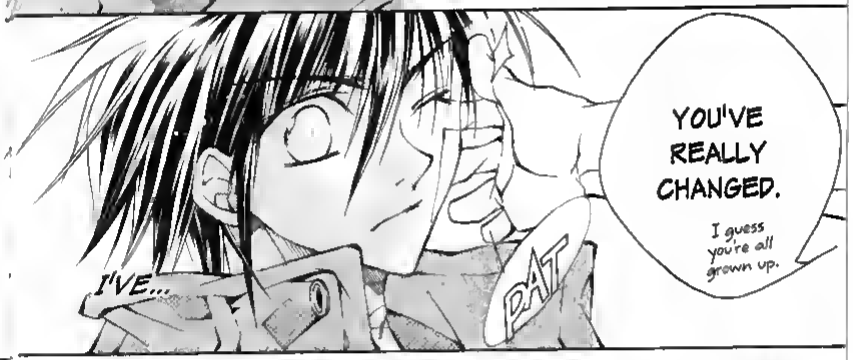
IT WAS CRUSHED BY OKIKURUMI AS IT GREW.
AND THE NOA ACADEMY IS GONE.
THERE IS NOTHING LEFT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE OUTSIDE...
...BUT IF THE STUDENTS ARE LIKE THIS, NOA ITSELF...
I THOUGHT SO.
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
BUT NOW THAT I UNDERSTAND...
I HAD TO SAVE AIKA FIRST,
SO I COULDN'T HELP HER THEN.
WHEN I WOKE UP...
ROAR
...IT WAS ALREADY LIKE THIS.
NOA.

I'M SURE SHE KNEW...
THAT'S WHY...
...SHE TOOK EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO SMILE
...THAT THE PEACE WITHIN NOA WOULD END.
I WILL SAVE HER.
WHEN SHE SEES WHAT HAPPENED,
NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO DESTROY IT.
SHE CAN CHOOSE HOW SHE WANTS TO LIVE.
...IT MIGHT BE HARD FOR ANZU-CHAN TO LEARN ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO NOA,
SINCE SHE CARED SO MUCH ABOUT IT.
YOU WORRY ABOUT EVERYONE.
YOU...
..HAVEN'T CHANGED.
SHE'S NOT THAT WEAK.


CAN YOU REALLY USE YOUR KAMUI-ABSORBING POWERS...
...AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!
tear
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

HE WOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO STOP ME IF THIS POWER HAD NO EFFECT ON OKIKURUMI.
WHICH MEANS...
KOJO-MARU?
HIS PURPOSE WAS TO TAKE BACK OKIKURUMI.
BEFORE I CAME HERE,
KOJOMARU TOLD ME NOT TO USE THIS POWER.
Kojomaru huh?
ISN'T THAT...
...IS A NUISANCE!
...THERE IS A CHANCE.
...JUST HIS...
THAT VOICE...

GRIN
...I UNDERSTAND.
I WASN'T ONLY WORRIED ABOUT ANZU-CHAN.
BUT...
I THOUGHT THAT SEEING HER SADNESS WOULD MAKE YOU SAD TOO.


I'VE...
PAT
YOU'VE REALLY CHANGED.
I guess you're all grown up.

tap tap
You're still short, though
What's left for a big brother to do?
SO?
...CHANGED?

ATSUMA,
I NEED TO KNOW SOMETHING!
TUG
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
WHEN ALL THIS IS OVER...
...WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO COOK FOR YOU?

ANYWAY,
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.
Geez.
THEY FOUND US.
Security camera?
STEP
STEP
STEP
ONCE OKIKURUMI'S POWER WEAKENS,
TAKE HER OUTSIDE AND...
GRAB
!?
BEEP
BEEP
Emergency alert to all able forces!
Two intruders detected in the central basement C-00 area.
All troops capture the target at once! I repeat...

TAP
...BUT YOU CAN'T DO IT ALL YOURSELF.
LEAVE EVERYTHING ELSE UP TO ME.
THAT'S WHY YOU HEALED MY BODY, RIGHT?
I JUST WANTED TO GET OUT AND SAVE HER.
Oh,!
WHATEVER!
TURN
wave
THEN I'LL LEAVE ANZU-CHAN TO YOU.

SIGH
After all that time I spent cooking for you
I BET YOU HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING FOR A WHILE
LET GO!
WHY BRING THIS UP NOW!?
SLAP
When I tended your wound
HUH?
I NOTICED HOW THIN YOU'VE GOTTEN.
Flick
POINT
BECAUSE IT'S IMPORTANT!
AS SOON AS WE GET OUT OF HERE, I'M TAKING YOU BACK TO MY OLD PLACE...
...AND COOKING YOU THE MOST DELICIOUS MEAL EVER!
You know what?
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, I'M GOING TO CARRY YOU BOTH OUT!
Nyah
THAT'S WHY I'M NOT LEAVING WITHOUT YOU.
I MAY BE COUNTING ON YOU...

AND I'LL...
THUMP
...CLEAN UP...
FLARE
...THESE SOLDIERS!
ROAR
JUMP
THEY ESCAPE TO?
STEP
UGH
THUD
STEP
HEY YOU!
CLICK
BANG
STEP
Dammit!
THEY'RE SO FAST.
WHERE DID.
GAH!

HUFF
THUD
HUFF
HUFF
...REMEMBERS HOW TO FIGHT.
HUFF
CLICK
MY BODY...
...I WANT TO HELP.
I HAVE TO GO
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
I DON'T KNOW WHO I AM.
BUT IF I CAN BE HELPFUL TO SOMEONE...
I HAVE TO...
TO FIND OUT WHO I AM.
...DO WHAT I CAN!

...IS HOW I WILL FINALLY FIND TRUE FREEDOM!
DESPITE EVERYTHING HE TOOK FROM ME.
I NOW KNOW WHO I AM.
GLARE
AND THIS...
RING!
IF THE THING THAT MADE YOU HAPPY WAS DESTROYED,
THEN...
...I WILL USE MY POWERS TO REBUILD IT FOR YOU.

WOOSH
BUT I COULDN'T REJECT IT.
I TRIED NOT TO GET INVOLVED.
ALL THE FEELINGS...
...I DISCOVERED AT NOA.

WHOOSH!
UTSUHO!
WHOOP!
RING

YOUR PRESENCE WOUNDS US.
I DON'T WANT TO SUFFER ANYMORE.
THUD

UTSUHO.
...CAN I HAVE YOU?
SO...

IN EXCHANGE,
YOU CAN TAKE EVERYTHING FROM ME!

I BEG YOU. BE MINE.

!!
KABOOM
SCRUNCH
...DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN UNTIL HE'S DEAD.
SIZZLE
SLIDE
SHIKI!
IF YOU WANT TO KILL HIM..
WHOOSH
WELL THAT'S..
Laugh
...A DIFFICULT WISH TO GRANT.
SUMIRE!

BUT IT'S TOO BAD, SUMIRE.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU MADE THAT CONTRACT,
...THAT YOU ARE UNABLE TO KILL ME NOW.
SKID
!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
COME BACK SOME OTHER TIME.
KOJOMARU'S PHYSICAL FORM...
...SHATTERED?
YOU...
...CANNOT HAVE ME.
YOU MADE A CONTRACT WITH KOJOMARU TO HAVE ME, RIGHT?
RING

EVEN KOJOMARU DOESN'T KNOW.
YOU CANNOT...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT THAT YOU DON'T KNOW.
BUT...
...KOJOMARU'S SWORD WENT THROUGH HIS HEART.
...KILL ME WITH THIS SWORD.
SHATTER

YOU'RE...
...SO CLOSE
Wheeze
BUT YOU STILL DON'T...
...SEE ME?
WHO...
...ARE YOU REALLY?
CRUMBLE
WHAT DO YOU SEE...
...WITH THOSE EYES?

BA-DUM
...KOJOMARU?
THAT WAVE...
I WOULD GUESS..
...YOU KNOW BY INSTINCT, KOJOMARU ..
BA-DUM
!?
RING
Heh
I TOLD YOU KOJOMARU DOESN'T KNOW
...TO KILL YOU!
KOJOMARU ONLY WANTED...
...WHO YOUR REAL ENEMY IS
CHOKE
!
GRAB
CHOKE
KOJOMARU IS JUST ANOTHER PAWN.
IN THIS WORLD, EVERYTHING MOVES AS I WISH.
YOU CAN'T GET ANYTHING BY MERELY WISHING FOR IT.

Heh
YOU FINALLY APPEARED...
Warning to all mobile units...
ATSUMA.
SUMIRE...
BEEP
BEEP

...WAS ALWAYS CRYING.
Waah!
Waaah!
THAT CHILD...
Hic
Hic
BUT FOR SOME REASON, THAT CHILD WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD HEAR MY VOICE.
IT WAS THE FIRST CHILD I'D SEEN WITHOUT TOHSU.
ARE YOU CRYING AGAIN?
RING
Hic
...HERE TO BRING OKIKURUMI TO AWAKENING.
KOJOMARU IS...
BA-DUM
RING
BA-DUM
AND EXISTS ONLY TO PROTECT ME.

Chapter 37 kojomaru

LOOK
LOOK
WHAT'S SO TERRIBLE?
WHY ARE YOU SO SAD?
DON'T YOU GET BORED?
THAT'S WHY I TALKED TO HIM, LOCKED UP IN A CAGE.
BUT NOTHING I SAID COULD MAKE HIM STOP CRYING.
Waaaah
ALL HE DID WAS LEAVE.
WA...
FLINCH
I LOST SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO ME TOO.
Waaaah
WHY DOES HE CRY?
IF ONLY I COULD GET OKIKURUMI BACK.
HMPH.
THEN...
BUT HE WAS ONLY BETRAYED BY ONE PERSON.
AND HE PROBABLY WON'T EVER SMILE LIKE HE DID BEFORE.

BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN DESIGNED..
YOUR INSTINCTS ARE DRAWING YOU BACK TO YOUR TRUE MASTER
...TO PROTECT YOUR MASTER WHEN IT IS IN DANGER.
RING
UGH.
...IS IN TURMOIL?
YOU CAN'T STOP THE EFFECT.
EVEN NOW, YOUR ONLY DESIRE IS TO RETURN.
WHOOSH
UGH.
SO YOUR REAL ENEMY ISN'T ME...
...BUT THE ONE WHO IS TRYING TO HURT OKIKURUMI.
GRIN

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, PROFESSOR HASUMI?
RING
THAT SPIRIT...
...WILL PROTECT YOU?
GRAB
KOJOMARU'S WAVE...
UGH.
UG
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, KOJOMARU?
ACTUALLY, IT WILL PROTECT SOMETHING I HAVE

ATSUMA.
SCARE
SHUT UP!
GRUMBLE
ROAR
COUGH
COUGH
IF THAT'S SO,
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
huff
huff
...I JUST HAVE TO KILL YOU, THE SOURCE OF ALL THE TROUBLE, AND TAKE BACK OKIKURUMI!
WHATEVER I AM...
I HATE REPEATING MYSELF,
PERHAPS.
STEP
...DO YOU PROTECT ATSUMA?
HOW COULD I HAVE MISSED?
BUT THAT WON'T HAPPEN, KOJOMARU.
WHY...

I WAS ALWAYS BY HIS SIDE WATCHING!
YOU WERE NEVER THERE!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BETRAYED THE VILLAGE AND ABANDONED ATSUMA!
Hmph
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KOJOMARU?
I THOUGHT YOU FELT THE SAME WAY.
I DON'T NEED ANYTHING BUT OKIKURUMI AND MYSELF.
WAS I WRONG?

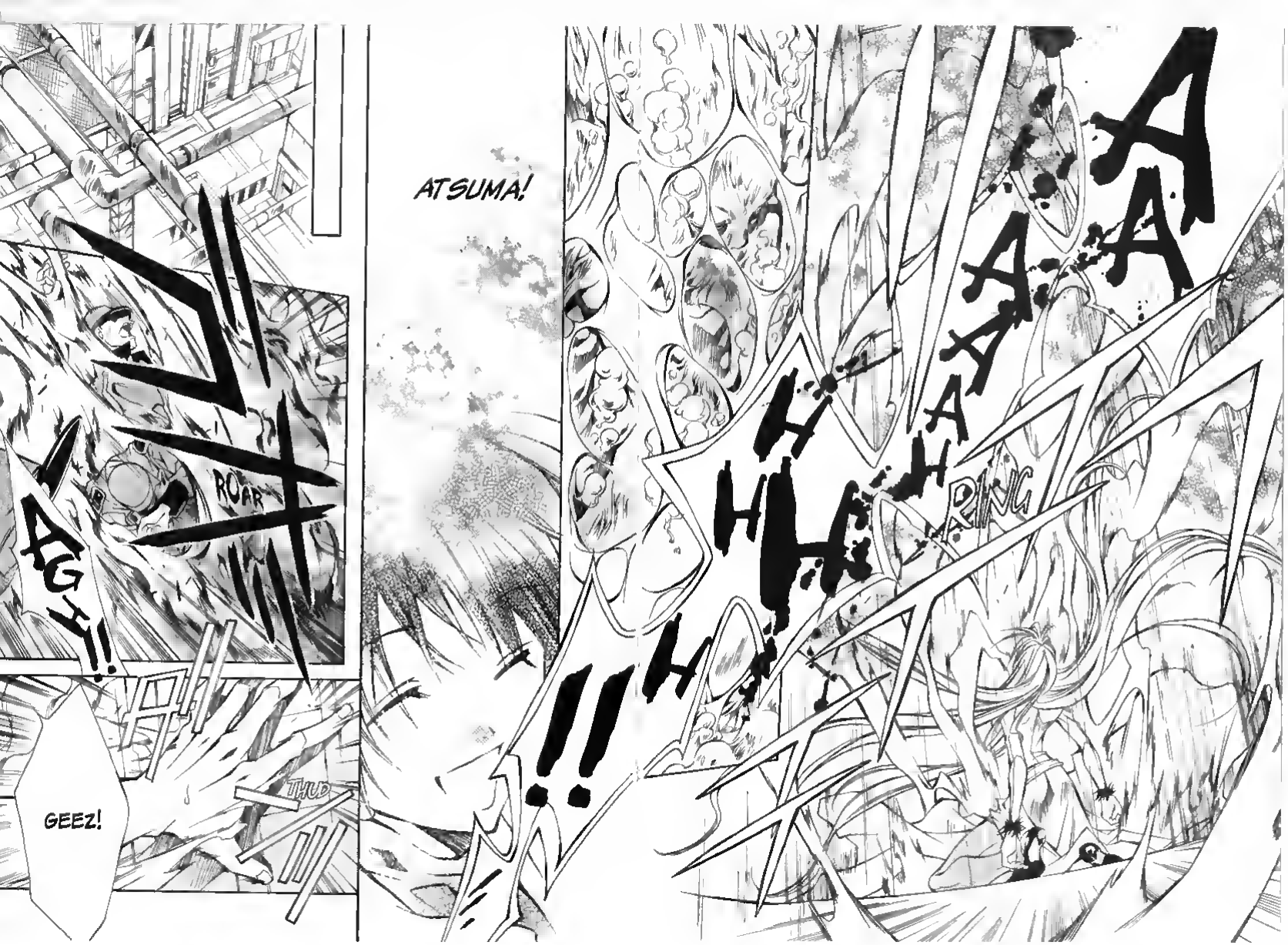
Heh.
I GUESS...
SO WHY DIDN'T YOU GO STOP HIM?
THAT'S..
Twitch
WHAT?
HE IS TRYING TO KILL YOUR PRECIOUS OKIKURUMI.
BUT HE IS NO LONGER A CONTAINER NOR AN INNOCENT CHILD.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU ARE SO ATTACHED TO HIM,
KAMUI ARE LOYAL CREATURES.
...FOR THIS USELESS EMOTION?
WHY LOSE YOUR TRUE PURPOSE...
...WOULD YOU KNOW?
WHAT...

WHAT?
.....!?
CRUNCH
NOW YOU UNDERSTAND?
HATING ME IS USELESS.
WHAT IS THAT?
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING YOU MUST DO.
BA-DUM
WHY?
WAKE UP, KOJOMARU.
THAT...
...IS...
BA-DUM
WHY, OKIKURUMI?
NOR TO BE BY HIS SIDE AND PROTECT HIM.
AND IT IS NEITHER TO KILL ME NOR TAKE OKIKURUMI BACK,

BA-DUM
NO.
THEN WHY? WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO YOU?
...I CAME HERE?
THE REASON...
WHY DID YOU COME TO THIS CITY IN THE FIRST PLACE?
WAS IT FOR ATSUMA?
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO ME
OKI...
...KURUMI.
ZIIIP
THAT'S RIGHT. WELL THEN...
...TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
RUSTLE

...BACK TO NORMAL.
UH.
RING
NO... I DON'T...
NO.
UH...

THERE IS ONLY ONE THING FOR YOU TO DO.
BUT I...
RUMBLE
...WANTED TO TAKE YOU BACK.
RING
I JUST...
RUMBLE
SO EVERYTHING WOULD BE...
...JUST WANTED TO BE WITH YOU.


ATSUMA!
AGH!!
ROAR
GEEZ!
THUD
!!
HAAAA
RING

WHAT?
ROAR
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
OKIKURUMI...
...IS MOVING LIKE A LIVING THING.

I'm hurt and there are just too many of you!
YOU OPENED MY WOUND!
Huff
ROAR
!?
BOOM
WHOA.
HISS
DASH
WHAT?
ROAR
WHAT IS THIS WAVE?

ROAR
UGH.
RING
CRACK
UGH.
UGH.
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
IS THIS OKIKURUMI? TOO?
A WAVE SHRIEKING IN MY HEAD.
UGH!
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING...
...WITH ALL THIS STEAM.
RING
ROAR
ATSUMA!
ROAR
ATSUMA!
WHERE ARE YOU!?
ROAR
UGH.
URGH.

ANZU-CHAN!
!!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
splash
splash
splash
THE ROOT OF OKIKURUMI EXPLODED FROM THE INSIDE!
LIFT
TOUCH
AGH!!
KA-BOOM

AAG GH !!!
...IS FLOWING THROUGH ME, LIKE A RIVER.
IT WON'T LET GO!
CRACK
CRACK
OKIKURUMI'S WAVE...
CRACK
CRACK
BOOM
!!
DON'T MOVE, ATSUMA!
BUT I PROMISED.
TAP
THE TOHSU OF NOA WON'T WORK ON OKIKURUMI!
IT'S NO USE!

Creep
ATSUMA!
ATSUMA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
WAIT HERE.
GOOD.
SHE'S STILL BREATHING.
UGH!
ANZU-CHAN IS HERE!
ATSUMA!
MY ARM!
CRACK
ATSUMA!
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

OKIKU-
RUMI!
BOOM
FLARE
I SAID,
LET GO!
IT...
TAP
IT HURTS!

CRACK
GRIN
I'LL USE
BRUTE
FORCE, IF I
HAVE TO.
YOU'RE...
THAT I'LL
PROTECT
YOU.

rumble
WHOA
!
SCUTTLE
SLASH
Ouch.
WHAT WAS THAT?
AH
ZAP

THAT'S PERFECT,
RING
DAMMIT!
BUT...
...THIS WAVE IS...
STEP
THERE IS ONLY ONE THING FOR YOU TO DO.
KOJOMARU.
YES.

WHAT!?
WHOOOSH
BOOM
SWISH
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
I CAN'T DEFEND AGAINST IT WITH MY TOHSU!

ABANDON THOSE FOOLISH EMOTIONS,
BE THE SHARP SWORD THAT DESTROYS ANYTHING...
AND BECOME THE UNFEELING ENTITY THAT YOU WERE MEANT TO BE.

INFORMATION

KAMUI DRAMA CD

Thanks to all of your support, KAMUI was made into a drama CD!
It is currently on sale from Frontier Works.
I wrote a new script for it. It's an original story of their days at NOA.
The first print includes a 2005 calendar too. The illustration features all the characters in kimono cosplay (very rare!).
Please enjoy a new KAMUI world voiced by the amazing cast!

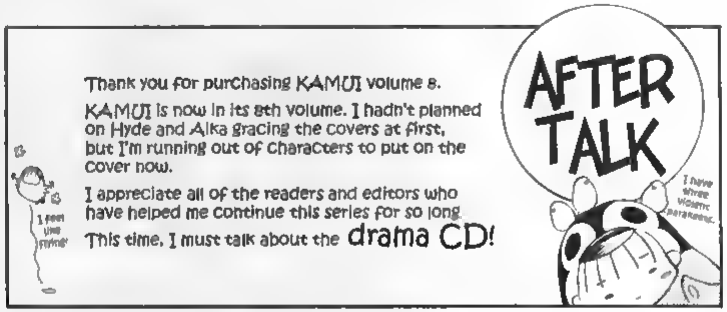
I'll work hard on the main series too! o=

CAST

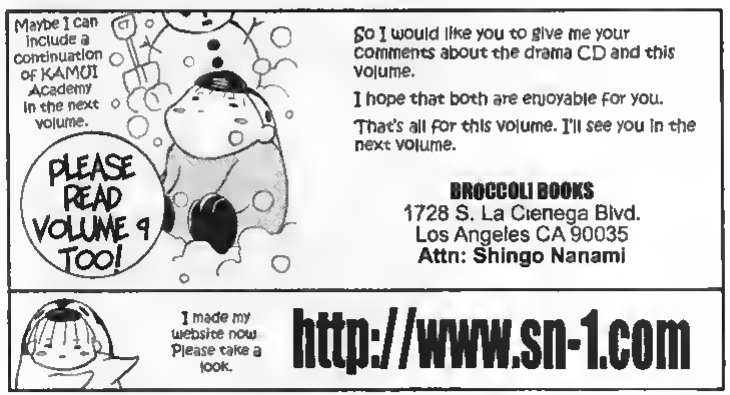
[redacted]	Takahiro Sakurai
[redacted]	Toshiyuki Morikawa
Sumire	Aya Hisakawa
Shiki	Katsuyuki Konishi
Yanagi	Akira Ishida
Hyde	Junichi Suwabe
Kojomaru	Romi Park
Aika	Hiroko Kuwashima
Anzu	Yui Horie

TRANSLATION NOTES

Pg. 99
Chan – A suffix; can be put after any name. It is often used for children, good friends or those younger than oneself.


AFTER TALK
Thank you for purchasing KAMUI volume 8.
KAMUI is now in its 8th volume. I hadn't planned on Hyde and Aika gracing the covers at first, but I'm running out of characters to put on the cover now.
I appreciate all of the readers and editors who have helped me continue this series for so long.
This time, I must talk about the drama CD!

It's going to be hard to select a voice actor!
You should have thought about it more
Don't blame us.
And what worried me the most was...
Why must you guys have the same voice?
(too late now)
When I wrote the script, he's the one who talks all the time
Who's the main character?
No worries
All he says is "What?"
UM, THE HERO DOESN'T TALK MUCH. IS THAT OKAY?
Of course not.
Hmph.
Thanks to all of you, KAMUI was made into a drama CD that I really love. By the time this volume is released, the CD should already be available. It is wonderful to have "sound" to a story on paper! But the first thing I thought was...


Maybe I can include a continuation of KAMUI Academy in the next volume.
PLEASE READ VOLUME 9 TOO!
So I would like you to give me your comments about the drama CD and this volume.
I hope that both are enjoyable for you.
That's all for this volume. I'll see you in the next volume.
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